

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAL-01 OIC-02 /121 W
-----190415Z 082398 /64

R 181715Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 783
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0329

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, MO
SUBJECT: LOS: SOME GOM VIEWS

REF: A) STATE 009443, B) STATE 003591, C) RABAT 0292, D) RABAT 0326

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA CHIEF OF TREATIES AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION, MUSTAPHA GHARBI, TO DELIVER DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED
REFTEL (A). EMBOFF LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE. SEE REFTELS (C) AND (D)
NOTAL FOR OTHER REPORTS OF THIS MEETING.

2. EVENSEN GROUP. THE GOM HAD JUST RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO THE
EVENSEN GROUP MEETING. GHARBI DID NOT KNOW YET WHETHER MOROCCO
WOULD BE REPRESENTED, OPINING THAT IT DID NOT SEEM NECESSARY FOR
ALL TO BE PRESENT AS LONG AS SOME KEY MEMBERS "SUCH AS INDIA AND
SRI LANKA" WERE THERE. HE DID NOT IN ANY CASE HAVE THE IMPRESSION
THAT THE GENEVA MEETING WOULD ARRIVE AT ANY FORMAL, DEFINITIVE
CONCLUSIONS ON THE SEABEDS QUESTION, ALTHOUGH HE FELT IT COULD
BE USEFUL.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, EMBOFF SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHO
WOULD HEAD USDEL TO LOS TALKS. EMBOFF REFERRED, HOWEVER, TO
LONGSTANDING BIPARTISAN NATURE OF U.S. LOS POSITIONS.

4. SEABED MINING. GHARBI SAID THAT THE GOM HAD "PRIVATELY"
AGREED TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND TRACK OF PARALLEL SYSTEM
OF EXPLOITATION, SUBJECT TO TWO CONDITIONS: THAT

THE USSR ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND THAT THE AUTHORITY GRANT MINING RIGHTS TO COMPANIES INSTEAD OF STATES, ALTHOUGH STATES WOULD NATURALLY BE MIDDLEMEN IN NEGOTIATIONS. THE GOM WAS AFRAID THAT IN THE CASE OF THE USSR, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS A RISK OF DE FACTO SOVEREIGNTY TRANSFER OCCURRING WHEN MINING RIGHTS GRANTED. IN THIS RESPECT HE WELCOMED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OFFER OF A SUBSEQUENT REASSESSMENT OF THE SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH GHARBI HINTED THAT 25 YEARS MIGHT BE TOO LONG.

5. GHARBI ZOOMED IN ON OUR POINT THAT THE USG HAD LIMITS TO ITS FLEXIBILITY IN THE TALKS. HE REMARKED THAT CRYING WOLF ALSO HAD ITS LIMITS, AND CLAIMED THAT WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST SESSION, USED THIS LINE IT HAD PROVOKED A VERY BAD REACTION AMONG THIRD WORLD DELEGATES. HE CREDITED THE USDEL WITH SENSING THIS AND SAID THAT WHEN THE SECRETARY'S TONE SOFTENED IN THE LATTER PORTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE THE RESPONSE WAS FAVORABLE AND SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE. THE PROBLEM, HE REMARKED, HAD MANY NORTH-SOUTH ELEMENTS AND THERE WERE SOME RADICAL STATES WHICH SIMPLY DID NOT WANT A TREATY. HOWEVER, THE MOMENT WAS "NEAR" FOR SOME POSSIBLY MEANINGFUL BREAKTHROUGHS ON AT LEAST THE SEABEDS QUESTION.

6. ECONOMIC ZONE. GHARBI REITERATED THE GOM'S STANDARD POSITION ON THE STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE, WITH NO PERCEPTIBLE SHIFT SINCE PREVIOUS EXCHANGES ON THIS TOPIC. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE GRATUITOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT US INSISTENCE ON A HIGH SEAS REGIME IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE SHOWED OUR UNINTEREST IN STRONG POLLUTION CONTROLS (SEE REFTEL D). HE ALSO CLAIMED WE HAD VERY LITTLE SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION, NOTABLY AMONG EUROPEANS.
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7. MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. AS LONG AS WE COULD NOT AGREE ON THE STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE, WE WOULD BE IN DISAGREEMENT ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THAT ZONE, ACCORDING TO GHARBI. EMBOFF ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ELICIT SPECIFIC POINTS OF DIFFERENCE ON THIS QUESTION, REVIEWING U.S. OFFERS ON ADVANCE NOTICE, JOINT PARTICIPATION, ETC., BUT GHARBI WOULD NOT DISCUSS.

8. COMMENT: GHARBI'S CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ON SEABEDS WAS OFFSET BY HIS APPARENTLY ADAMANT VIEWS AGAINST HIGH SEAS NATURE OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE. THE GOM'S ECONOMIC ZONE POSITION IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN ITS BASIC CONCERNS OVER OFFSHORE WATERS RESOURCES, STRAITS, AND POLLUTION CONTROL, AND EMBASSY SEES NO SIGN WHATSOEVER OF MOROCCAN WEAKENING ON THIS MATTER.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE COMPOSITION OF USDEL WHEN IT IS NAMED.
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